

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Ehichioya and Alam during the August 23, 2005 personal interview. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In section 6 on pages 3 and 4, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15 are amended to clarify that the units making up the recited systems are computer units and that the methods are computer implemented methods. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for indicating that during the August 23 personal interview that the amendments to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15 overcome this rejection. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are also thanked for memorializing this agreement in the Interview Summary.

In section 8 on page 5, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for indicating during the August 23 personal interview that the amendments to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15 described above also overcome this rejection. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are also thanked for memorializing this in the Interview Summary.

In section 10 on pages 5 and 6, the Office Action rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 13 and 15 are amended to remove the recitation giving rise to this rejection. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for indicating during the August 23 personal interview that the amendment to claims 13 and 15 overcome this rejection. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for memorializing this agreement in the Interview Summary.

In section 9 on page 5, claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for indicating during the August 23 personal interview that the amendment to claims 13 and 15 described above also overcomes this rejection. Examiner Ehichioya and Primary Examiner Alam are thanked for memorializing this agreement in the Interview Summary.

In section 13 on pages 11-13, the Office Action rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,704 to Shimotsuji et al. (hereinafter "Shimotsuji") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,963,952 to Smith. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shimotsuji and Smith, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a data input form retrieving system, comprising a character string extracting unit that extracts a character string from each of plural data input forms containing character strings and makes up a text file containing the extracted character strings in association with a corresponding data input form, extracting conditions input unit that inputs a condition of extracting a specific data input form from the plural data input forms, and a data input form extracting unit that extracts the specific data input form by retrieving the character string contained in the text file in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input unit, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 5 for a data input form retrieving method, and in claim 9 for a computer-readable recording medium.

In addition, Shimotsuji and Smith, individually and together, fail to teach or suggest a data input form retrieving system, comprising keyword adding unit that adds a keyword inputted by a user or automatically generated by natural language analysis to each of plural data input forms, an extracting condition input unit that inputs a condition of extracting a specific data input form from the plural data input forms, and a data input form extracting unit that extracts the specific data input form by retrieving the keyword added by the keyword adding unit in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting

condition input unit, wherein a text file containing the keywords extracted from the data input form is made up when the keywords have been extracted from each of the plural data input forms, as recited in claim 4, and similarly recited in claim 8 for a data input form retrieving method, and in claim 12 for a computer-readable recording medium.

Nor do Shimotsuji and Smith teach or suggest a data input form retrieving system, comprising a character string extracting unit that extracts a character string from each of plural data input forms containing character strings in accordance with a predetermined rule for extracting the character string from a specific kind of character string part, an extracting condition, input unit that inputs a condition of extracting a specific data input from the plural data input forms, and a data input form extracting unit that extracts the specific data input form by retrieving the character string extracted by the character string extracting unit in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input unit, as recited in added claim 13, and similarly recited in claim 15 for a data input form retrieving method.

Instead, Shimotsuji discloses techniques for document registration and retrieval based on input of image data for a new document. In particular, Shimotsuji teaches extracting line data in step S15 and characters in step S21 based on formats from step S2 in which form data registered in the file memory are displayed and the user selects one form with which to observe the document (col. 3, lines 40-50, col. 4, lines 21-34 and Figs. 3 and 6 of Shimotsuji). The Final Office Action asserts that Shimotsuji discloses keyword adding means (col. 1, lines 33-36 of Shimotsuji). However, Applicants respectfully submit that Shimotsuji teaches only inputting a keyword to retrieve data desired by a user (col. 1, lines 33-41 of Shimotsuji). Applicants' features in claim 4 recite "adding... a keyword inputted by a user or automatically generated by natural language analysis to each of plural data input forms" and "retrieving the keyword added by the keyword adding unit in accordance with the extracting condition", which are not taught or suggested by Shimotsuji.

Further, Smith discloses a data entry system for an internet browser. In particular, Smith teaches passing a document to a data entry state 74 after being presented to a new browser window for enabling data to be entered. Smith also teaches writing tags into a secondary document and writing data extracted from a primary document into the secondary document as initial values for the tags (col. 5, lines 42-64, col. 6, lines 54-63 and Figs. 4 and 5B of Smith).

There is no motivation to combine features related to the data line extraction of Shimotsuji with the data entry technique of Smith, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even assuming that motivation to combine the applied references could be established, the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed features, as discussed above.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness for a §103 rejection requires satisfaction of three basic criteria: there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references or knowledge generally available to modify the references or combine reference teachings, a reasonable expectation of success, and the references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP §706.02(j)). Applicants assert that the Final Office Action fails to satisfy these requirements with Shimotsuji and Smith.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13 and 15 as being unpatentable over Shimotsuji in view of Smith be withdrawn.

In section 12 on pages 7-11, the Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimotsuji in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,592 to Reuning. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

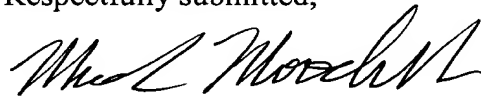
Shimotsuji is deficient with respect to claims 1-12, 14 and 16 for the same reasons described above in connection with the rejection of claims 13 and 15. Reuning fails to overcome these deficiencies in Shimotsuji.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-12, 14 and 16 as being unpatentable over Shimotsuji in view of Reuning be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 29, 2005

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